Water Costs Money… Don't Waste It!

Waste Per Bi-Monthly Billing Cycle at 60 P.S.I. Water Pressure

Diameter of Stream	Gallons
1/4"	787,667
3/16"	444,000
1/8"	197,333
1/16"	49,333

Leak Prevention Tips

Studies show that dripping faucets and leaking toilets account for as much as 14% of all indoor water use, equivalent to 10 gallons (38 liters) per person of water lost per day. Follow these basic tips to safeguard your home against water leaks.

Read Your Water Meter

Use your water meter to check for leaks in your home. Start by turning off all faucets and water-using appliances and make sure no one uses water during the testing period. Take a reading on your water meter, wait for about 30 minutes, and then take a second reading. If the dial has moved, you have a leak.

Check for Leaky Toilets

The most common source of leaks is the toilet. A silent leak in your toilet can waste *several* thousands of gallons of high quality water each year and place unnecessary demands on the sewer system. Usually you cannot hear the leak because it runs slowly out of the tank.

Follow these simple steps to discover leaks in your toilet:

1. Lift off the lid to your toilet tanks.
2. Place three or four drops of ordinary food coloring into the toilet tank water (**Do not** use dye. It could stain the fixture).
3. Do not flush the toilet for one to two hours.
4. At the end of the waiting period, look into the toilet bowl. If the color you placed into the tank is in the bowl, you have a leak of the flush valve, also known as the flapper. This valve acts as a stopper in the bottom of the tank. This is an inexpensive and easy part to replace. Try cleaning it first or see your hardware dealer for a replacement.

NOTE: It is a good idea to adjust the water level in the toilet tank to stay at least 1" below the open tube in the tank. This is the overflow tube, in case the fill valve sticks. If the water level is too high it causes the water to go down the tube and not be detected by the food coloring test. You can adjust the water level with the screws on the fill valve or by slightly bending the float arm.

Toilet Information and Tips

- Toilets can account for almost 30% of all indoor water use, more than any other fixture or appliance.
- Older toilets (installed prior to 1994) use 3.5 to 7 gallons (13-27 liters) of water per flush and as much as 20 gallons (76 liters) per person per day.
- Replacing an old toilet with a new model can save the typical household 7,900 to 21,700 gallons (29,902-82,135 liters) of water per year, cutting both your water and wastewater bills.
- An average of 20% of toilets leak.
- Install an ultra low-flow toilet that requires only 1.6 gallons (6 liters) per flush.
- To ensure optimal performance, when installing a low-flow toilet in areas with a low drainage gradient (such as basements), consider a pressurized model.
- Check toilets periodically for leaks and repair them promptly.
- Reduce the amount of water used by an older toilet by placing a one gallon plastic jug of water, or two one quart bottles, in the tank to displace toilet flows. Or you can install a "dam" that partitions off a section of the tank so it can't fill with water. These methods can save over 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water per person per year.
- Do not use the toilet as a trash can.

Check for Leaky Faucets/Showers

The next place to check for leaks is your sink and bathtub faucets. A leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons a day. Dripping faucets can usually be repaired by replacing the rubber O-ring or washer inside the valve. Use WaterWiser's Drip Calculator (www.waterwiser.org) to measure and estimate water wasted due to leaks.

The third highest use of indoor water is bathing, and because most of us like to use warm water when we bathe, it's also the second highest use of energy in the home.

- Take a quick shower rather than a bath and save an average of 20 gallons (76 liters) of water.
- Install a water-efficient showerhead with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons (9.5 liters) per minute. (Replace an existing shower head if a one gallon bucket placed under the flow takes less than 20 seconds to fill.)
- Install aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets to reduce indoor water use by as much as 4%.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving and save more that 5 gallons (19 liters) per day.

Dishwashers

- Only run your dishwasher when it is full to make the best use of water, energy and detergent.
- Cut down on the amount of rinsing you do before loading the dishwasher. Most modern dishwashers do an excellent job of cleaning dishes, pots and pans all by themselves.
- When purchasing a new appliance, look for one offering several different cycles. This will allow you to select more energy and water efficient cycles when heavy duty cleaning is not required.

Clothes Washers

- Wait until you have a full load of laundry before running the machine to save both water and energy. If you can't wait for a full load, use the right water level to match the size of the load.
- When in the market for a new machine, consider a Energy Star model that will use an average of 37% less energy and over 50% less water.

Other

- Insulate your hot water pipes and your electric water heater. Insulation will reduce the amount of time it takes for hot water to reach the tap, saving water and energy.
- If in the market for a new water softener, consider one with a "hardness sensor" that will automatically trigger regeneration as needed. This type of softener will make the most efficient use of both water and salt.
- Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinsings.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of the hose.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses.
- Prevent the creation of leaks by shutting off and draining water lines to outside spigots in the winter.
- Cover your spa or pool to reduce evaporation. An average size pool left uncovered can lose as much as 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water per month.
- Also, check your spa/pool for leaks and have them repaired promptly.
- Clean vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water rather than running water from the tap. Re-use the water that vegetables are washed in for watering house plants or for cleaning.
- If you wash dishes by hand, rinse them in a sink partially filled with clean water instead of under running water.
- Instead of waiting for tap water to get cold enough for drinking, keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator.
- Whenever possible, compost food scraps or dispose of them in the garbage rather than using the garbage disposal which requires a high level of water for operation.
- Clothes washers can use as much as 30-35 gallons (114-133 liters) of water per cycle and dishwashers as much as 25 gallons (95 liters) per cycle.
- A full dishwasher is more water efficient that washing the same load by hand. If you need to wash dishes by hand, fill on sink or basin with soapy water. Rinse your dishes under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
- You use about 5 gallons of water if you leave your faucet running while brushing your teeth.
- Only water your grass when needed. If you step on your grass and it stays flat when you move, it needs water. Watering your lawn during early morning hours or in the evening will reduce losses from evaporation.
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- An average of 20% of toilets leak.
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- To ensure optimal performance, when installing a low-flow toilet in areas with a low drainage gradient (such as basements), consider a pressurized model.
- Check toilets periodically for leaks and repair them promptly.
- Reduce the amount of water used by an older toilet by placing a one gallon plastic jug of water, or two one quart bottles, in the tank to displace toilet flows. Or you can install a "dam" that partitions off a section of the tank so it can't fill with water. These methods can save over 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water per person per year.
- Do not use the toilet as a trash can.

Check for Leaky Faucets/Showers

The next place to check for leaks is your sink and bathtub faucets. A leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons a day. Dripping faucets can usually be repaired by replacing the rubber O-ring or washer inside the valve. Use WaterWiser's Drip Calculator (www.waterwiser.org) to measure and estimate water wasted due to leaks.

The third highest use of indoor water is bathing, and because most of us like to use warm water when we bathe, it's also the second highest use of energy in the home.

- Take a quick shower rather than a bath and save an average of 20 gallons (76 liters) of water.
- Install a water-efficient showerhead with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons (9.5 liters) per minute. (Replace an existing shower head if a one gallon bucket placed under the flow takes less than 20 seconds to fill.)
- Install aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets to reduce indoor water use by as much as 4%.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving and save more that 5 gallons (19 liters) per day.

Dishwashers

- Only run your dishwasher when it is full to make the best use of water, energy and detergent.
- Cut down on the amount of rinsing you do before loading the dishwasher. Most modern dishwashers do an excellent job of cleaning dishes, pots and pans all by themselves.
- When purchasing a new appliance, look for one offering several different cycles. This will allow you to select more energy and water efficient cycles when heavy duty cleaning is not required.

Clothes Washers

- Wait until you have a full load of laundry before running the machine to save both water and energy. If you can't wait for a full load, use the right water level to match the size of the load.
- When in the market for a new machine, consider a Energy Star model that will use an average of 37% less energy and over 50% less water.

Other

- Insulate your hot water pipes and your electric water heater. Insulation will reduce the amount of time it takes for hot water to reach the tap, saving water and energy.
- If in the market for a new water softener, consider one with a "hardness sensor" that will automatically trigger regeneration as needed. This type of softener will make the most efficient use of both water and salt.
- Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinsings.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of the hose.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses.
- Prevent the creation of leaks by shutting off and draining water lines to outside spigots in the winter.
- Cover your spa or pool to reduce evaporation. An average size pool left uncovered can lose as much as 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water per month.
- Also, check your spa/pool for leaks and have them repaired promptly.
- Clean vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water rather than running water from the tap. Re-use the water that vegetables are washed in for watering house plants or for cleaning.
- If you wash dishes by hand, rinse them in a sink partially filled with clean water instead of under running water.
- Instead of waiting for tap water to get cold enough for drinking, keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator.
- Whenever possible, compost food scraps or dispose of them in the garbage rather than using the garbage disposal which requires a high level of water for operation.
- Clothes washers can use as much as 30-35 gallons (114-133 liters) of water per cycle and dishwashers as much as 25 gallons (95 liters) per cycle.
- A full dishwasher is more water efficient that washing the same load by hand. If you need to wash dishes by hand, fill on sink or basin with soapy water. Rinse your dishes under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
- You use about 5 gallons of water if you leave your faucet running while brushing your teeth.
- Only water your grass when needed. If you step on your grass and it stays flat when you move, it needs water. Watering your lawn during early morning hours or in the evening will reduce losses from evaporation.
- For more information regarding energy efficient appliances, visit Energy Star's website at www.energystar.gov.